

UNCLASSIFIED 9/15/76
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TELEGRAM

9/15/76 CONTINUED 5980
15 Sep 76
1007
Unles
R
INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

ACTION:

AMB
DCM
POL
CONS
CHRON

FROM

Ambassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

N/A

CASC, PFOR, AR

Argentine Response to US Protest in Weeks' Case

SecState WASHDC

REF: Buenos Aires 5218

██████████ BUENOS AIRES 5218 5980

1. Raftal transmitted the text of the Embassy's note 228 of August 9, 1976 protesting lack of notification and denial of consular access in the case of the arrest of Father James Martin Weeks. On Sept 13, 1976 the Foreign Office requested that the Ambassador call to receive a copy of the Ministry's response. As the time specified was inconvenient, the DCM called to receive the note from the Ministry's Coordinator of Foreign Policy (a new position in the Under Secretary's office).
2. The DCM received and read the note and commented that, given the specifically legal nature of its content, he was not competent to comment on it. He observed that, on the basis of his instructions, it would appear that there is a difference between the US and Argentine interpretation of Article 36 of the Vienna Convention. He further observed that notification to

DRAFTED BY:

DCM: MChaplin/pm
CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE

9/13/76

TEL. EXT.

180

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

Amb: RCHill

POL: WSSmith
ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

() In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date _____ Classify on _____ Reason _____

DECONTROL

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CLASSIFICATION

80F178
21/185

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

~~Classification~~
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Consul of arrests of his nationals is a generally accepted practice contained in most of the United States Consular Bilaterals.

3. The Ministry officials by their comments clearly wished to consider the matter closed, ^{as} ~~as~~ a fruitless proleptic about legal niceties. The DCM responded that he believed that differences of interpretation should be clearly identified, but that the US interpretation of the points raised in the Ministry's note would have to come from the Department of State.

4. Since the Foreign Office stated that the identical text was being delivered to Dept today, text of Ministry's unnumbered note of Sept 14 is being transmitted by ^{Air} ~~XXXX~~ pouch to ARA/ECA.

5. The Embassy awaits the Department's comments on the Argentine note with interest.

HILL

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~~Classification~~